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at least 20% of the [2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid]
hydroxy analog of methionine is assumed to be available for
absorption by the ruminant.

Please amend claim 8 to recite:

Claim 8 (twice amended). A process for formulating a
ruminant food ration, the process comprising:

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determining the methionine needs of the ruminant,
identifying a plurality of natural or synthetic feed
ingredients and the nutrient composition of each of said
ingredients wherein one of said ingredients is a hydroxy analog
of methionine selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxy-
4-(methylthio)butanoic acid, salts, amides and esters thereof,
and

formulating a ration from the identified feed ingredients
to meet the determined methionine needs of the ruminant which
comprises mixing one or more grains with the hydroxy analog of
methionine, wherein (i) the ration is formulated on the basis
that at least 20% of the [2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic
acid] hydroxy analog of methionine is assumed to be available
for absorption by the ruminant, and (ii) the ration does not
comprise a bypass fat.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above
amendments under the provisions of Rule 1.312.

The amendments are being offered to conform claims 6 and 8
to the format adopted for claim 1 at the suggestion of the
Examiner in the Office action mailed September 22, 1998.
Although the Examiner's suggestions were incorporated into
claim 1, through oversight corresponding amendments were not